Meeting with farmers of Andhra Pradesh to discuss anti-tobacco Legislatino

98. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has fixed any date for a meeting with farmers of Andhra Pradesh to discuss anti-tobacco legislation; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the meeting and agenda?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANFAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKAR ANAND) : (a) and (b). Government had organised a National Conference on Tobacco on Health on 27-28 July, 1991, in which representatives from various Government and non-Government organisations including a few major tobacco growers participated. In the conference, all the tobacco related issues were analysed indepth.

Action against Medical Colleges violating the norms for admissions

99. SHRI VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India is empowered to check and regulate the medical colleges which are violating the norms prescribed for admissions; and

(b) if so, details of the action taken against such medical colleges during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The Medical Council of India prescribes the norms for medical education including qualification for admission. According to information furnished by Medical Council, no such case of violation of norms for admission has been reported to the Council.

Harmful Effects of Pan Masala

100. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of a call for a ban on Pan Masala and chewing Tobacco made at the recently held Cancer Congress in New Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware that on-going researches have established the cancer causing capabilities of Pan Masala and Chewing Tobacco and that almost one third of India's annual cancer burden of about 6,60,000 cases is diagnosed as a oral cancer; and

(c) whether Government have undertaken any analysis of Pan Masala ingredients like Tobacco, betel nut and catchu which are reported to contain elements hazardous to health, including pesticide residues and aromatic hydrocarbons; and

(d) what is the quantum of excise/tax revenue accruing to Government from Pan Masala manufacturers and also the amount spent on providing treatment to cancer patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Studies conducted by I.C.M.R. on analysis of Pan Masala showed presence elements hazardous to health including pesticide residues and aromatic hydrocarbans.

(d) Revenue accrued to the Government from Pan Masala Manufacturers during 1993-94 was Rs. 62.00 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 18.15 crores was incurred under National Cancer Control Programme during 1993-94. A provision of Rs. 18.00 crores has been earmarked in the budget for 1994-95 under this Programme.